UTILITY ' PATENT APPLICATION

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First Named	! Inventor or App	lication Identifier	
John K. Scl	nneider et al.		
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See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents	ADDRESS TO: Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231				
 Fee Transmittal Form (Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing) Specification [Total Pages 1/3 /] 	 6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix) 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary) 				
 (preferred arrangement set forth below) Descriptive title of the Invention Cross References to Related Applications Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R&D Reference to Microfiche Appendix Background of the Invention Brief Summary of the Invention 	a. □ Computer Readable Copy b. □ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy) c. □ Statement verifying identity of above copies □				
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)	ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS				
Detailed DescriptionClaim(s)Abstract of the Disclosure	8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))				
3. Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets / 6 /]	9. □ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement □ Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)				
4. □ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages //]	10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)				
a. ☐ Newly executed (original or copy) b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed) [Note Box 5 below]	11. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations				
i. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named	12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment				
in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).	13. ■ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)				

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	The entire disclosure of the prior application, from
	which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied
	under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the
	disclosure of the accompanying application and is
	hereby incorporated by reference therein.
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4. ■ Sr	nall Entity 🗆 :	Statement filed in prior application
		Status still proper and desired
5. □ C	ertified Copy	of Priority Document(s)
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	18. (CORRESPONDE	NCE ADDRESS		
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Martin G. Linihan Signature

Name

Application Number PTO/SB/17 (12/99) Approved for use through 09/30/00, OMB 0651-0032 FEE TRANSMITTAL Filing Date September 11, 2000 for FY 2000 John K. Schneider et al. First Named Inventor Patent fees are subject to annual revision. Small Entity payments MUST be supported by **Examiner Name** Group/Art Unit a small entity statement, otherwise large entity fees must be paid. 37 CFR §§ 1.27 & 1.28 13325.0030 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)345.00 Attorney Docket Number 1. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge 3. ADDITIONAL FEES indicated fees and credit any overpayments to: Entity Small Entity Large Deposit Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Account 08-2442 Paid Code (\$) Fee Description (\$) Code Number Deposit Account Name: \$ Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Woods & Goodyear, LLP 105 205 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath 130 \$ Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet 50 227 25 127 Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 2. Payment Enclosed: \$ Non-English specification 139 130 139 130 Other Check ☐ Money Order 2.520 147 2,520 For filing a request for reexamination FEE CALCULATION 147 Requesting Publication of SIR prior to Examiner Action 1. FILING FEE 920* Large Entity Small Entity 112 920* 112 Fee Fee Fee Fee Fee Requesting Publication of SIR after Examiner Action \$ 113 1.840* 113 1.840* Paid Code (\$) Fee Description Code (\$) 110 215 Extension for reply within first month 115 201 345 Utility filing fee \$345 690 216 190 Extension for reply within second month 380 310 206 155 Design filing fee Extension for reply within third month 870 217 435 107 : 480 207 240 Plant filing fee 680 Extension for reply within fourth month 218 1,360 118 108. 690 208 345 Reissue filing fee Extension for reply within fifth month 114 228 925 ,850 150 75 Provisional filing fee 128 }} 219 150 Notice of Appeal SUBTOTAL (1) \$345 110 300 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES Extra Fee from Fee \$ 300 220 150 Filing a brief in support of an appeal 120 Paid Claims below 221 130 S 260 Request for oral hearing 121 Total Claims / /-20** = / / x / / = \$ 510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding Independent Claims / / - 3** = / / x / / = 1,510 138 138 240 Petition to revive - unavoidable 140 110 55 Multiple dependent 1.210 605 Petition to revive - unintentional Large Entity Small Entity \$ 10 advance copies Fee Fee Fee 605 Utility issue fee (or reissue) \$ 1,210 242 142 Code (\$) Fee Description Code (\$) 430 243 215 Design issue fee 143 203 9 Claims in excess of 20 103 18 290 Plant issue fee 580 244 78 202 39 Independent claims in excess of 3 144 102 Petitions to the Commissioner 122 130 122 130 130 Multiple dependent claim if not paid 104 260 204 39 **Reissue independent claims over 78 209 109 \$ 50 50 Petitions related to provisional applications 123 123 original patent **Reissue claims in excess of 20 and 110 18 210 Submission of Information Disclosure Statement \$ 240 240 126 126 over original patent Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) SUBTOTAL (2) 581 40 581 40 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a)) \$ 345 SIGNATURE: 146 690 246 For each additional invention to be examined 345 (37 CFR 1.129(b)) 690 Reg. No. 24,926 149 Martin G. Linihan

Date of Deposit September 11, 2000 Express Mail" Mailing Label Number _ EK522130765US I hereby Certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.G. 20231

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DATE: September 11, 2000

Name

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T-418 P 03/06 F-734 Docket Number

STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN	Docket Number 13325.0032			
Applicant or Patentee: John K. Schneider, Stephen M. Gojevic, Frank W. Keeney and Frederick W. Kiefer				
Application or Patent No.: Filed or Issued: September 11, 2000 Title: Left Hand Right Hand Invariant Finger Positioning	Guide			
I hereby declare that I am /_/ the owner of the small business concern identify /X/ an official of the small business concern emporementations and the small business concern identified below:	fied below: owered to act on behalf of the			
NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN <u>Ultra-Scan Corporation</u> ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN <u>4240 Ridge Lea Road</u> Amherst, New York 14226				
I hereby state that the above-identified small business cobusiness concern as defined in 13 CFR Part 121 for purpose the United States Pacent and Trademark Office. Questions resmall business concern may be directed to: Small Business Staff, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.	s of paying reduced fees to elated to size standards for a			
I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been the small business concern identified above with regard to				
<pre>/X/ the specification filed herewith with title as /_/ the application identified above. /_/ the patent identified above.</pre>	listed above.			
If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).				
Each person, concern or organization having any rights in a /X/ no such person, concern, or organization exists /_/ each such person, concern, or organization is 3	∍.			
Separate statements are required from each named person, corights to the invention stating their status as small entit				
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).				
NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Frank W. Keeney				
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 30 A Amille CT Williamsville NY 1427				
SIGNATURE Date September 11, 2000				
LODOCE (\$3695D_H)				

LEFT HAND RIGHT HAND INVARIANT DYNAMIC FINGER POSITIONING GUIDE

Cross Reference to A Related Application

Applicants hereby claim priority based on Provisional Application No. 60/153,180 filed September 10, 1999 and entitled "Left Hand Right Hand Invariant Dynamic Finger Positioning Guide" which is incorporated herein by reference.

Background of the Invention

Inkless fingerprint scanners, also known as live scan fingerprint readers or biometric devices, have been widely used for many years. These systems obtain an image of the fingerprint without the use of inks. Once an image is acquired, it is then processed and an identification or verification of the individual's identity is made.

Many different techniques have been used to obtain an image of the finger including optical scanners, thermal scanners, capacitive scanners, E-field sensors, ultrasonic scanners, and many more. Each uses a different modality or technique to image the same physical characteristic; the ridge structure of the finger. Each claim to have certain advantages over the competing approaches.

The use of these systems is a two step process. The first step is that the user must enroll into the system. The enrollment process scans the individual's finger for the first time and stores it, along with any other pertinent information needed for future use in the identification or verification process. The second step is the actual identification or verification process.

In the case of identification, the user's identity is now known and it is up to the system to determine the identity. This process is usually referred to as a cold search or a one-to-many. The verification process is where the user presents their identity in the form of a token such as a PIN code, ID Card, etc., and it is up to the system to verify the identity using the fingerprint.

The majority of large-scale applications that have been attempted with live scan fingerprint readers have been in an attended application. That is, a trained attendant assists the user of the live scan fingerprint reader by guiding the user in the proper placement of the finger with respect to vertical and horizontal position on the platen surface of the live scan fingerprint reader. Proper placement of the finger is absolutely critical to obtain maximum accuracy in the identification or verification process. Usually, a display such as a computer monitor is used to show the location of the finger on the platen, providing feedback to the user and the attendant as to the position of the finger. In addition to proper placement of the finger horizontally and vertically, users often tend to roll the finger to one side or another, thereby not imaging the main portion of the finger but rather the side of the finger. Consequently, the attendant will often assist in ensuring that the finger is flat on the fingerprint platen and not rolled off to one side.

Using an attendant to assist the user and providing visual feedback of the image severely limits the deployment of these systems. For example, for most commercial applications the cost of a trained fingerprint attendant to assist the user in the positioning of their finger is prohibitive. Techniques to train the users on the proper placement of the finger

have been tried but generally do not work. Even if they did, adding a PC Monitor near the fingerprint scanner to provide positional feedback also raises the cost of the system beyond what can be tolerated by most commercial applications. Furthermore, the visual feedback system introduces additional problems.

First, the user, by seeing the finger on the PC Monitor, will tend to slide their finger into position until it is properly located. Because of the friction between the skin and the platen, the sliding effect introduces distortion of the fingerprint, thereby introducing errors in the identification/verification process.

Second, many live-scan fingerprint readers cannot produce an image of the finger fast enough to give the user the instantaneous feedback they need to guide them. For these scanners, the use of a display such as a PC Monitor is virtually useless.

In an attempt to solve this problem, some of these products have tried a form of electrical or mechanical guide to assist the user in the proper placement of the finger. Electrical guides are normally some type of sensor or array of sensors that is detecting the position of the finger on the platen surface and providing the user feedback. Again, these devices would have the same problem associated with them as does the PC Monitor. The user would slide their finger to position it properly as instructed by the positioning sensor, and this sliding would again cause distortion of the fingerprint. Other electronic means have been proposed to image a very large surface area, thereby ensuring that the entire finger would be imaged. using image-processing techniques, the tip of the finger would be located for processing the fingerprint image.

Unfortunately, for many fingerprint scanners, imaging a large scan area would cause the image array such as a CCD to increase in size, thereby increasing the cost of the system significantly. For other fingerprint scanners, increasing the image area would increase the scan time significantly thereby reducing user acceptance and system throughout.

Stationary mechanical devices have been tried but have proven ineffective. The variability in the length, width and height of fingers makes it difficult to design a single guide to work for everyone. In addition, many proposed techniques have proven inappropriate due to the variability in the length of an individual's fingernails.

These problems combined have restricted the deployment of live scan fingerprint readers successfully into unattended applications.

Summary of the Invention

An overall improvement can be made to all live scan fingerprint readers by providing the automatic guide in accordance with the present invention for properly positioning the finger horizontally, vertically, and without rotation. Doing so will ensure that the user's finger will be in the optimum position of the fingerprint platen, without distortion, thereby enabling the highest possible system accuracy. Furthermore, the system is able to do this without the help of the user, an attendant, or a display such as a PC Monitor. This makes the system user friendly and low cost, thereby enabling the use of these devices in unattended applications.

The automatic finger guide of the present invention includes an active scan area on the scanner surface upon which one finger rests and a non-active scan area on the scanner surface on which the other finger(s) rest to provide stability, a stop post to indicate how far forward to place the hand, a guide post to assist in positioning the finger left to right or right to left as the case may be, sensors on the post to provide feedback to the user as to when the hand is properly in place and means to determine the position as to where the finger comes to rest on the active scan area.

The following detailed description of the invention, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, is in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention.

Brief Description Of The Drawing Figures

Figs. 1A and 1B are diagrammatic views illustrating the automatic finger guide according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view, partly diagrammatic, of the finger guide of the present invention for use with one type of scanner;

Fig. 3 is a side elevantional view, with parts removed, of the apparatus of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the finger guide of the present invention for use with another type of scanner;

Fig. 5 is a diagrammatic view further illustrating an alternative form of guide post of the finger guide of the present invention;

Figs. 6A-6C are diagrammatic views illustrating alternative finger sensing arrangements for use in the finger guide of the present invention; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the finger guide of the present invention used in another type of scanner

Detailed Description Of The Illustrated Embodiments

An overall improvement can be made to all live scan fingerprint readers by providing the automatic guide as shown in Figs. 1A and 1B for properly positioning the finger horizontally, vertically, and without rotation. Doing so will ensure that the user's finger will be in the optimum position of the fingerprint platen, without distortion, thereby enabling the highest possible system accuracy. Furthermore, the system is able to do this without the help of the user, an attendant, or a display such as a PC Monitor. This makes the system user friendly and low cost, thereby enabling the use of these devices in unattended applications.

The fundamental approach for use in an unattended, verification mode of operation is as follows:

First, increase the size of the surface of the fingerprint scanner to allow two or more fingers to be placed down simultaneously. One finger would rest on the active scan area (platen), the other(s) would rest on an ordinary surface (non-active scan area) to provide stability. This greatly minimizes the amount of rotation that can be introduced since any rotation would tend to lift the hand off the surface of the scanner.

Second, provide posts to assist the user in placement of the hand. Two posts as a minimum would work. One to indicate how far forward to place the hand (the stop post), and one to help position the finger

left to right (the guide-post). A mirror image of the posts could be placed to allow left hand/right hand operation.

Third, place electronic sensors on the post to provide feedback to the user as to when they have their hand properly in place. The feedback could be visual such as LEDs, audible, or both.

Fourth, the position as to where the finger comes to rest on the platen can then be determined. This can be done manually, or automatically by the system through a variety of image processing techniques.

The arrangement shown in Figs. 1A and 1B is provided on the operative surface of a fingerprint scanner, typically the top surface 10 of the scanner. The scanner can be any of the types previously mentioned hereinabove. With the above functionality built into the system, the enrollment and verification process would work in the following manner. In the enrollment process, the user places their left or right hand 12 down onto the surface 10 of the fingerprint scanner and ensures proper finger placement against the guide post 14 or 16 and stop post 18 or 20 as indicated by feedback sensors. The system scans a large portion of the finger on the scanner platen 26 and determines the location of the tip of the finger. The large portion of the finger must only be scanned during the time of enrollment in order to ensure that the tip of the finger is located and the complete fingerprint image is captured. This increased scan time during the enrollment process is not needed during the verification process and would therefore be accepted by the users of the system. The system records the fingerprint image or template, the location of the tip of the finger, and any other pertinent information such as PIN code.

There are two fundamental approaches to implement the verification process. The first approach is ideally suited for fingerprint scanners that scan the finger mechanically, such as the ultrasonic scanner 30 shown in Figs. 2 and 3. By way of example, the scanner of Figs. 2 and 3 is similar to that shown and described in United States Patent No. 5,647,364 issued July 15, 1997, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. The second approach is ideally suited for scanners 40 that do not scan the finger mechanically as shown in Fig. 4

The verification process for mechanical scanners is The user enters their token ID such as the PIN code recorded at the time of enrollment. The system retrieves the fingerprint information that is to be compared, along with the location of the tip of the finger. The system, using a stepper motor or other motion controlling type of device, positions the scan head to the proper position under the platen for that individual in order to scan the finger. Since the scan head is in an optimum position, only a normal size area of the finger needs to be scanned, thereby minimizing the scan time. The user places their left or right hand down onto the surface of the fingerprint scanner as they did during enrollment and ensures proper finger placement against the guide post and stop post as indicated by the feedback sensors. The finger is scanned and the identity verification process takes place.

The verification process for non-mechanical scanners is as follows.

For live scan fingerprint readers that do not scan the finger mechanically, moving the solid state imaging array to directly under the finger may or may not be

feasible. In that case, rather than moving the imaging array to position it under the finger, the guide post and stop post could be moved and the image array kept stationary. In this manner, the end result is the same in that the tip of the finger rests directly over the imaging sensor.

In addition to the obvious advantages the finger guide has in an unattended verification mode of operation, there are even advantages when used in a non-verification mode or operations, i.e., a cold search application. The accuracy and speed of identifying an individual is directly related to finger placement on the platen. In order to compare two images, the matching algorithm must allow for translation and rotation. The tighter the control on these two degrees of freedom, the faster a match can be performed, with greater accuracy.

In this case, the enrollment process would store both the fingerprint image and the location on the platen where the finger was found. The second parameter, the location on the platen where the finger was found, is directly related to the length of the finger as measured from the length of the stop post to the tip of the scanned image. Therefore, it can be used as a discriminator into the large database of fingerprint images. Thus when an individual is to be identified, they place their finger down onto the The system would not automatically search for the top of the finger and begin scanning. Only the portion of the database associated with that particular length of finger would have to be searched, thereby not only improving accuracy (less images to search), but also decreasing the overall search time.

There are some fingerprint scanners on the market that simultaneously scan more than one finger. An approach similar to that of the present invention could be used to assist in the placement of the fingers on such scanners.

In the embodiment of Figs. 1-4, the guide post and the stop post both are of metal, and when the finger properly contacts both an electrical circuit is completed to indicate that the finger is properly positioned on the scanner. Fig. 5 shows an alternative form of guide post provided with a pressure sensitive membrane type switch 52 located along the surface of the guide post which is to be contacted by the finger. The arrangement can be elongated and comprising a pair of pads of conductive ink. Alternative approaches such as impedance, resistive or capacitive switches and infrared sensitive elements also can be employed.

Figs. 6A-6C illustrate alternative finger sensing arrangements for use in the finger guide of the present invention. Each of the arrangements is in the form of a membrane switch construction and would be located on a surface of the scanner in relation to the active scan area. The arrangement of Fig. 6A includes a series of individual keypad conductive ink buttons 60, 62, 64 and 66 along a row or substantially linear path. Fig. 6B illustrates a single long continuous strip 70 of conductive ink for sensing any part of the finger. Fig. 6C shows an arrangement of many individual strips 74 (circuits) which functions to indicate whether or not the finger is in place and to provide an indication of the finger length. The strips are along a row or substantially linear path.

Fig. 7 shows the finger guide of the present invention in a portable fingerprint scanner 80 adapted

primarily for law enforcement use. The finger quide post 82 is located on the top surface 84 of the scanner in relation to the fingerprint scan area. The scanner can be of the type shown in the above-referenced Patent No. 5,647,364 adapted for battery operation. scanner can be connected to a computer in the law enforcement vehicle either via the hard wire connection or the RF communication link indicated in Fig. 7. is for the purpose of storing and processing the fingerprint images down-loaded from the scanner. operation, the device is held by the law enforcement officer by means of the handle 90, the subject places his finger on the scanner including the scan area or platen 92 and when the finger is properly positioned an indication is provided by the LED 94 as previously described, whereupon the scanner is activated by the officer simply by squeezing the trigger 96 and if a fingerprint image is obtained this is indicated by another LED.

It is therefore apparent that the present invention accomplishes its intended objectives. While embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail, that is done for the purpose of illustration, not limitation.

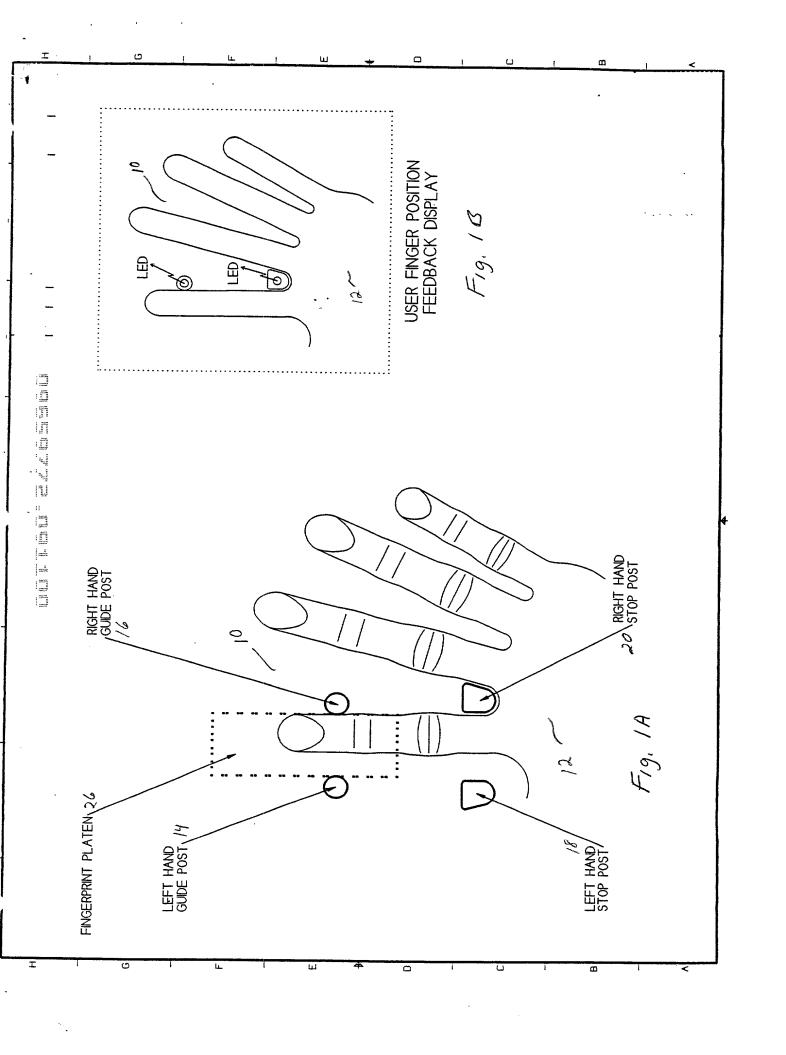
The Claims

- 1. An automatic finger positioning guide for fingerprint scanners comprising:
 - a) an active scan area on the scanner surface upon which one finger rests and a non-active area on the scanner surface on which one or more of the other fingers rest to provide stability;
 - b) a stop post on the scanner surface to indicate how far to place the hand longitudinally thereof;
 - c) a guide post on the scanner surface to assist in positioning the finger laterally; and
 - d) a sensor on at least one of the posts to indicate when the hand is properly in place.
- 2. The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein the stop post and the guide post are of electrically conductive material so that a circuit is completed when the hand is properly in place.
- 3. The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein pressure sensitive membrane switches are provided on the stop post and on the guide post.
- 4. The finger positioning guide according to claim 1, wherein left-hand and right-hand guide posts and stop posts are provided on the scanner surface.
- 5. The finger positioning guide accordingly to claim 1, further including a visual indicator on the scanner operatively connected to the sensor to signal when the hand is properly in place.

Abstract

An automatic finger guide for fingerprint scanners includes an active scan area on the scanner surface upon which one finger rests and a non-active scan area on the scanner surface on which the other finger(s) rest to provide stability, a stop post to indicate how far forward to place the hand, a guide post to assist in positioning the finger left to right or right to left as the case may be, sensors on the post to provide feedback to the user as to when the hand is properly in place and to determine the position as to where the finger comes to rest on the active scan area.

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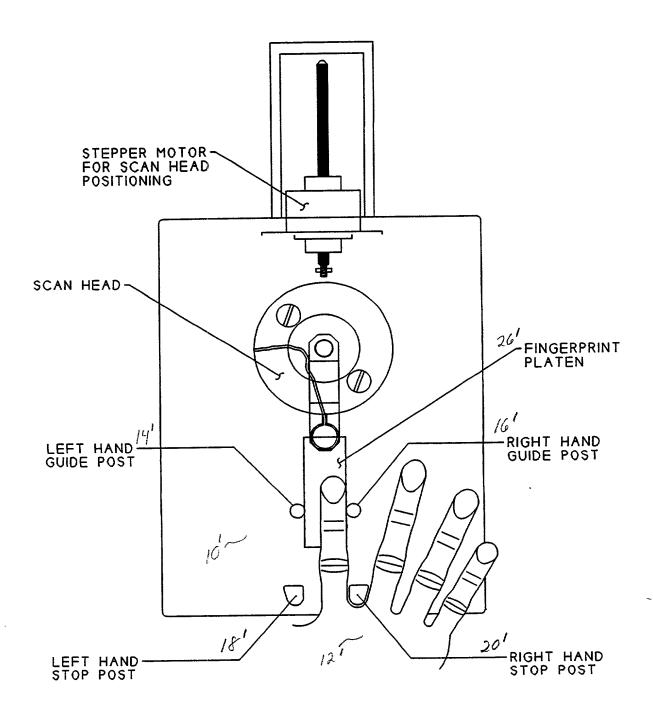
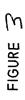
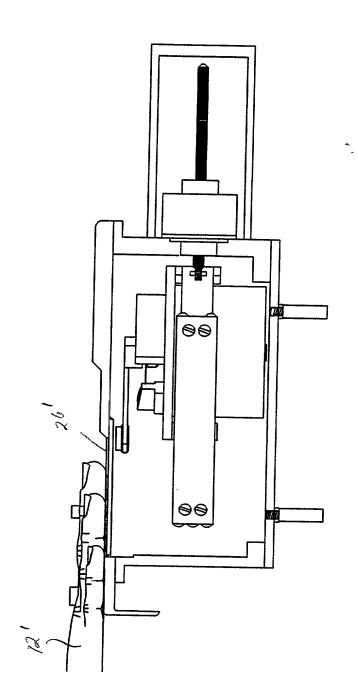
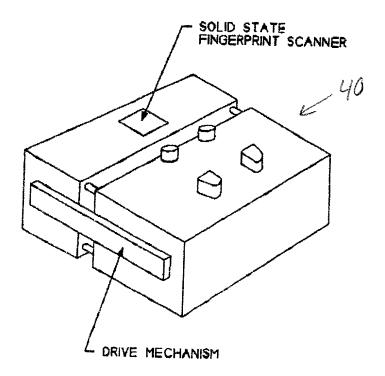


FIGURE 2
FINGER GUIDE FOR USE WITH MOVABLE SCAN HEAD SCANNER (TOP VIEW)

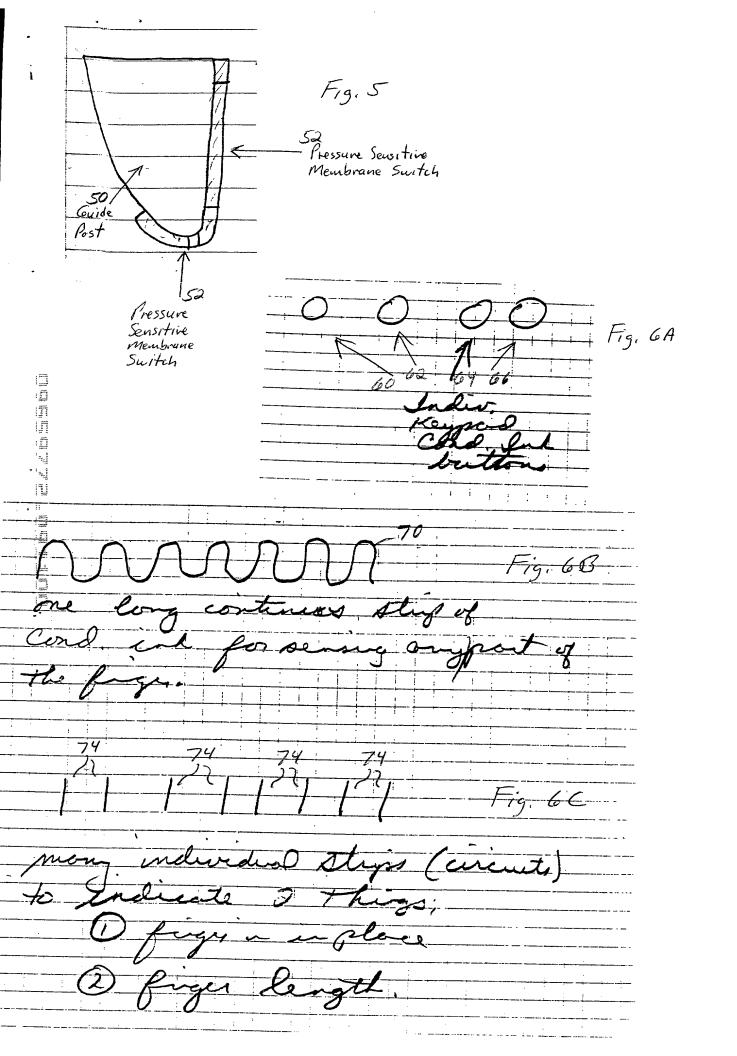






MOVABLE FINGER GUIDE FOR USE WITH SOLID STATE SCANNER

Fig. 4



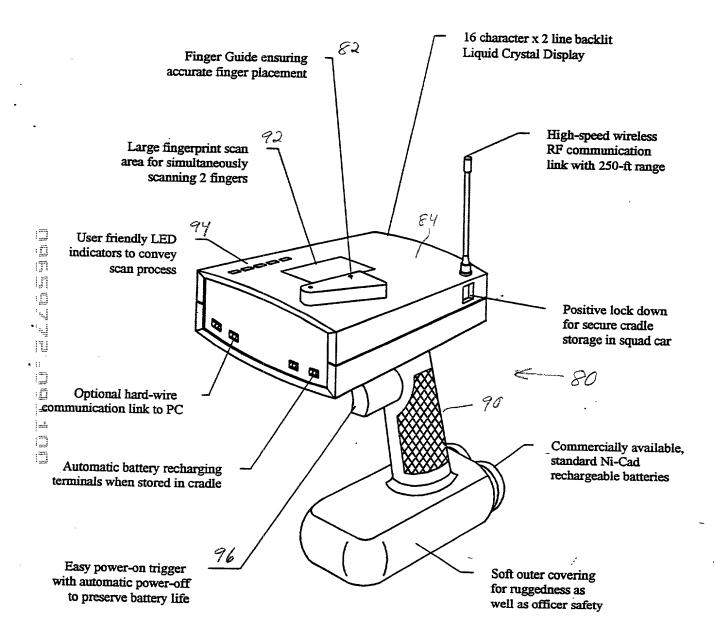


Fig. 7